

Week Ahead Weather May 10, 2022

Hi Folks,

Over the past week, precipitation was confined to Northern California with the heaviest amounts on the North Coast. This is depicted in Figure 1 which is a map of observed precipitation from the National Weather Service California Nevada River Forecast Center (CNRFC).

CNRFC Area Observed Precipitation

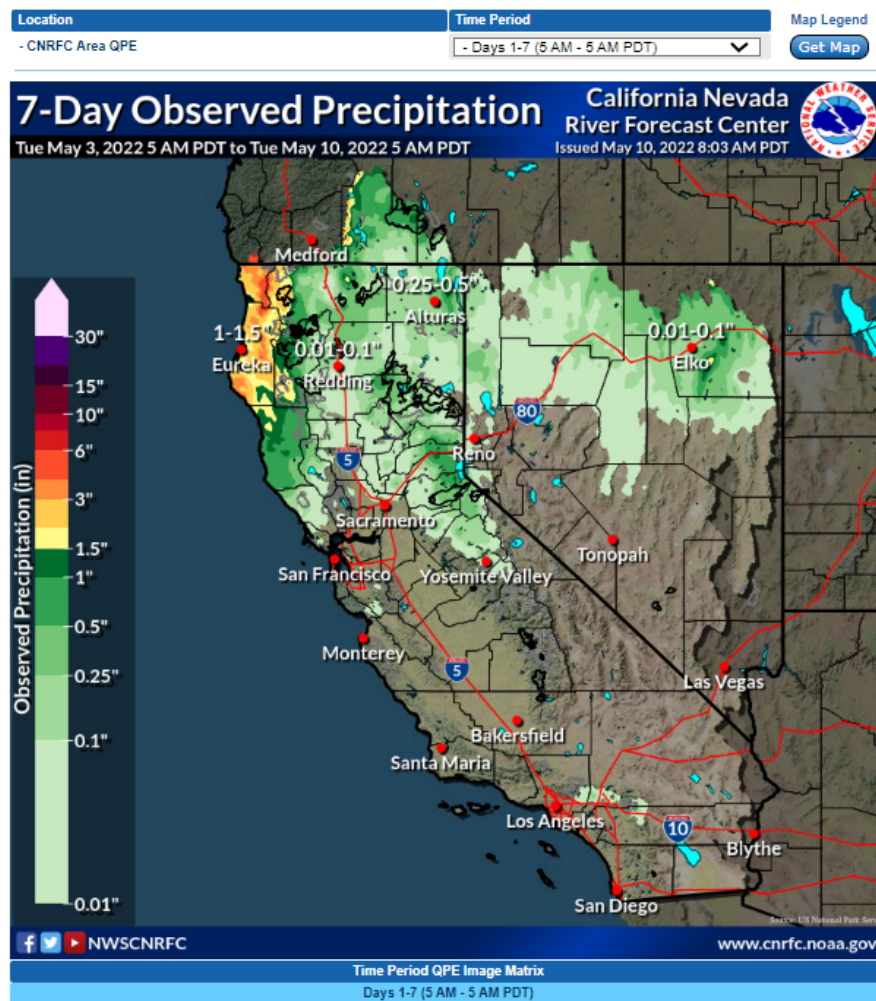


Figure 1. CNRFC map of observed precipitation from 5/3/22 to 5/10/22.

May continues the transition from wet season to dry season and from cooler weather to warmer weather. Consistent with this year are the strong swings that are expected this week. For precipitation, the CNRFC map of forecast precipitation for the next six days is shown in Figure 2. Scattered showers are expected as a disturbance moves across California. Towards the end of the week a strong warm-up is expected with high temperatures reaching the 90s in the Sacramento region. As we continue to move through May, the focus of weather will shift to the timing of these heat events, their duration, and how much of California they cover.

CNRFC Area Precipitation Forecast

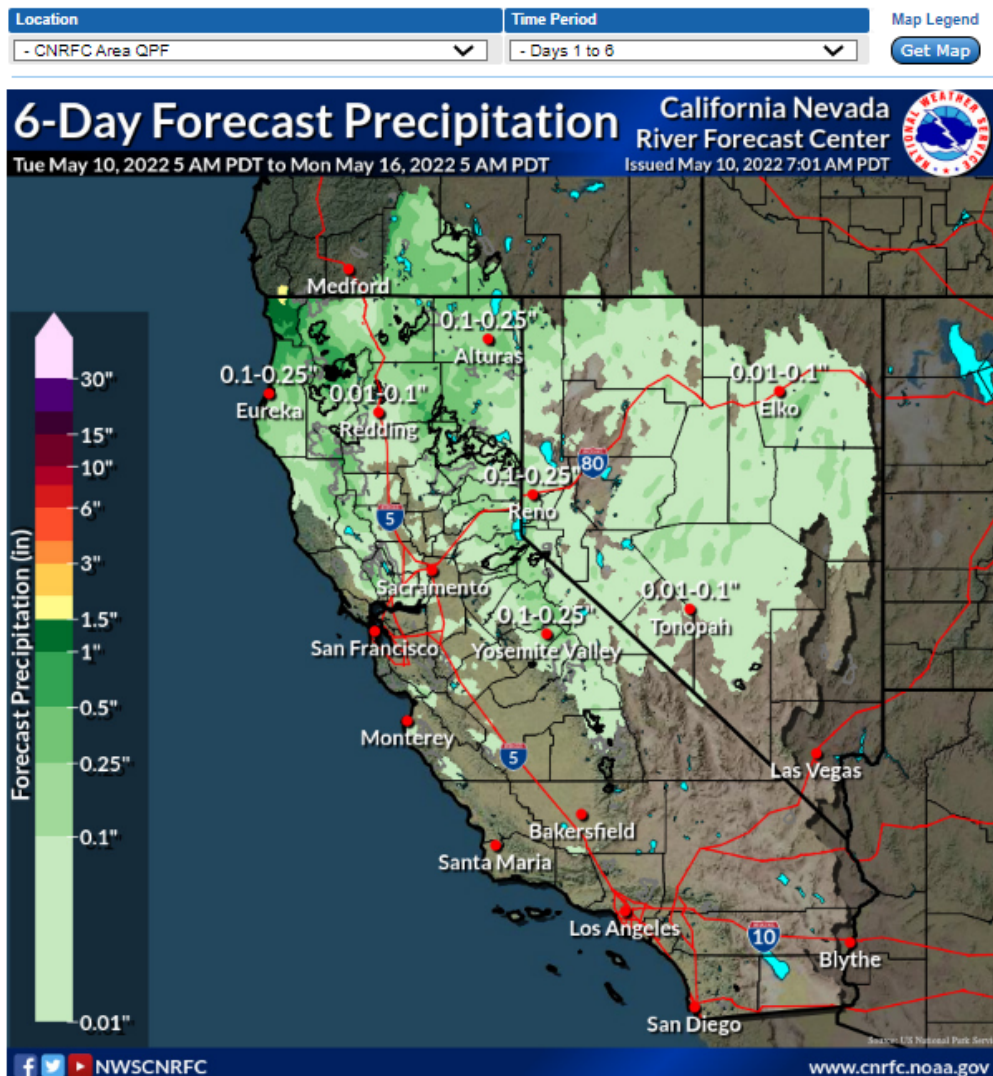


Figure 2. CNRFC map of forecast precipitation from 5/10/22 to 5/16/22.

Now that we are past peak snowpack accumulation and past peak melt, we can turn our attention to how quickly the landscape dries out and how quickly streamflow drops off as a result. To track that information, we have the Full Natural Flow reports on CDEC which includes the Basin Summaries at a monthly time scale at [FNFSUM \(ca.gov\)](https://www.cdec.ca.gov/FNFSUM), and the daily reports which can be found at [FNF \(ca.gov\)](https://www.cdec.ca.gov/FNF). Note that these reports are not comprehensive at covering all California watersheds. Additional investment in statewide models like the United States Geological Survey's Basin Characterization Model can also provide a means of tracking how dry the landscape is getting and how much precipitation is needed to generate runoff. For tracking the timing, pace, and scale of heat events through the summer, local Weather Forecast Offices ([CNRFC - Links - WFO Map \(noaa.gov\)](https://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/Links-WFO-Map)) of the National Weather Service and the NOAA Weather Prediction Center ([Weather Prediction Center \(WPC\) Home Page \(noaa.gov\)](https://www.weather.gov/wpc)) will be key to understanding how they evolve.